

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. I consider this current decision an outrageous misuse of their power.

However, "more of what's good for the bottom line" hurts our society and democracy in non-political ways, too. We need thoughtful reporting and analysis of news, and educational content. Instead we are getting "junk" tv. I would like to see much higher standards for content as a requirement for licenses as well as greatly strengthened media ownership rules.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.